

Ref.

FOREIGN OFFICE STATEMENT

October 9, 1937.

The League of Nations has declared that the actions now being taken by Japan in China are a violation of the Nine Power Treaty and the Treaty for the Renunciation of War, and the State Department of the United States has issued a statement to the same purport. However, these steps must be attributed to an unfortunate lack of understanding of the real circumstances as well as the true intention of Japan, a state of affairs which the Japanese Government deem very regrettable.

The present Sino-Japanese affair originated in the unwarranted attack made by Chinese forces on Japanese garrison troops legitimately stationed in North China under rights clearly recognized by treaty. The troop which was maneuvering at the time of the outbreak was a very small unit. The Japanese garrison force was then scattered in different parts, engaged in peace-time duties. After the outbreak of hostilities, Japan did everything in her power to reach a local settlement of the incident, even at the sacrifice of strategical advantages. These facts are sufficient to prove that the action of the Japanese force was by no means premeditated but simply defensive.

China is undoubtedly responsible for the spread of the affair to Shanghai and then to other points of Central China. She openly violated the Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities concluded in 1932 by concentrating overwhelmingly numerous forces of more than forty thousand men in the

DEF. DOC. #1127

demilitarized zone and attempted to annihilate our Naval Landing Party, numbering but a scant three thousand, and wipe out our 30,000 nationals living in the Settlement, amongst whom were many women and children.

The subsequent development of the Japanese military action has been but the unavoidable consequence of the hostile operations of China, who, ignoring our policy of a local settlement and non-aggravation of the situation, moved and concentrated her large armies against us. The action which Japan is taking at the present time is a measure of defense to which she has been compelled to resort by the premeditated provocative acts of China.

What the Japanese Government seek today is merely the abandonment by China of her anti-Japanese policy and the establishment of enduring peace in East Asia, through sincere cooperation between Japan and China. They have no territorial designs whatever.

In the light of these circumstances, it must be firmly declared that the present action of Japan in China contravenes none of the existing treaties which are in force.

The Chinese Government, lending themselves to Communist intrigue, have brought about the present hostilities by their persistent and malicious anti-Japanese measures and their attempt to do away with the rights and vital interests of Japan in China by force of arms. It is they who should be deemed a violator of the spirit of the Treaty for the Renunciation of War -- a monaco to the peace of the world.

DEF. DOC. #1127

C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, K. MIYASHI, Kooru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 2 pages and entitled "Foreign Office Statement, October 9, 1937" is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April, 1947.

(signed) K. MIYASHI
Signature of Official

Witness: (signed) K. URABE

六四 外務省聲明(四和十二年十月九日)

日露聯盟ハ即ニ帝曰ガ支那ニ於テ執リツツアル行動ヲ以テ九日條約及不戰
條約違反ナリト既定シ米國國務省亦同様ノ聲明ヲ發シタルガ右ハ今次事
件ノ實行及警戒ノ指揮ヲ現解セザルヨリ來ルモノニシテ帝國政府ノ甚々過機
トスルトコロヨリ。

今次事件ハ終始上明白ニ認メラレタル陸兵等ニ其キ合法的ニ北支ニ在リタ
ル帝國軍隊ニ即ニアル支那官署ノ不法攻撃ニ遭テ機シタルモノニシテ當地我國
艦船ニ於テ清軍ニ從事シタルハ都々テ小部隊ヨリシノミナラズ實地我國軍
艦軍ハ平時任務ノ爲各地ニ分敷開港セラレ居タルコト又ハ勤務日下ガ作
戰上ノ不利ヲ察ビテ海モ陸モ仰御領地内港ヲ計ラソコトニ仰御努力シタコトテ同
レバ我軍ノ行動ガ何等計略的ノモノニ非ズシテ全ク自衛ノ措置ニ以ヨラザリ
シコト四カナリ、又上海ニ次テ中古各埠ニ即ハガ均大スルニ至リタルハ文
明開港一九三二年ノ上海停戰協定ヲ既リテ其威勢威權ニ四散全ノ優勢ナル
軍隊ヲ入レ三千内外、僅少ヨル我門内ト日本女子ヲ含ム約三萬ノ内界在即一

民トチ浦セソトンタルニ起因スルモノナリ而シテ其ノ後ノ軍事行動ノ發展
ハ偏ニ支那側ニ於テ帝國ノ利権侵及時局不擴大ノ方針ヲ無視シ大軍ヲ利モ
集結シテ我方ニ對シ全面的ニ敵對行爲ニ出タルガ爲我方モ已ムチ行ズ當事
的行動ヲ以テ之ニ應ジタルニ其クモノニ外オラズ事スルニ帝國ガ今日支那ニ
於テ執リツツアル行動ハ支那側ノ計画的挑撥行動ニ已ムキクセラレタル自當
拂但ニシテ而シテ帝國政府ガ印下ノ對支行動ニ依リ支那ニ求メントスルモノ
ハ前記對日挑撥行爲ノ根柢チ皮ヌ拂日抗日政管ノ粉飾ト日支兩國ノ長攀キル
協調ニ依ル事實平和ノ具也トニ在シ何等價土的企圖ニ出ヅル次第ニ非茲然テ
然日ノ對支行爲ハ如何ナル現存終始ニモ過反セズ却ツテ赤色暴力ニ拂ラレ
然トシテ救劫事件ナル拂日抗日チ行シ武力行爲ニ依リ自國内ニ於ケル日
ノ地盤ヲ拂除シ夫ラットシテ今次之變チ招致セル事政府ヨリ不戰修約ノ特
約ニ對戻シ世界ノ平和ヲ尊成スルモノト言フベキヨリ

文書ノ出所並ニ於立ニ門スル證明書

自分、林馨ハ外務省文書御用ノ職員ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル
日本語ニ依ツテカレ武百ヨリ成ル外務省御用、(同和十二年十月九日)ト
門ヌル御用ハ日本政府へ外務省ノノ御用ニ係ル公文書ノ正體ニシテ於此
ル寫シナルコトヲ證明ス

同和二十二年四月八日、於南京 林

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ西洋ニ於テ寫サレタリ

同日於同所

立會人

消

部

附

印